NEWS RELEASE



STATE OF ALABAMA Department of Industrial Relations News For Immediate Release Contact: Ron Macksoud 334-242-8616

PROFESSIONAL EMPLOYER ORGANIZATIONS REQUIRED TO REGISTER WITH INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS

MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA, July 6, 2006 As a result of a new state law, every business currently operating as a Professional Employer Organization (PEO) in Alabama has until January 1, 2007 to register with the Alabama Department of Industrial Relations.

"PEO registrations may be completed online through the home page of the Industrial Relations Web site, www.dir.alabama.gov," says Phyllis Kennedy, Industrial Relations director. "In addition to online registration, PEOs must submit a registration fee, along with various documents, including financial statements and proof of workers' compensation insurance."

The Alabama Legislature enacted the Alabama Professional Employer Organization Registration Act on March 7, 2006, and Governor Bob Riley signed the bill on March 13. The law became effective on June 1.

"A PEO that was not operating in Alabama on June 1 must complete initial registration prior to launching its business," says Kennedy. "The law requires PEOs to renew registration annually with Industrial Relations."

Any PEO that fails to register is liable for a civil penalty of \$100 per day until the registration process is completed. For further information or assistance with the PEO registration process, contact the Industrial Relations Workers' Compensation Division (toll free) at 1-800-528-5166, or by e-mail at craig.white@dir.alabama.gov.

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Industrial Relations is an umbrella organization of State government which administers: the State Employment Service, Unemployment Insurance, Workers' Compensation, and Labor Market Information. Smaller programs also administered include Abandoned Mine Land Reclamation, Mine Safety and Inspection, and Surface Mining of Non-Fuel Minerals. For more information on DIR visit the Web site: www.dir.alabama.gov.